

Nehemiah-Part 4 The Gates of Jerusalem

Remember that the gates were the most important part of the wall because it was the critical entrance and exit points to the city of Jerusalem. It was at these gates where people traveled through on a daily basis. Ten gates are rebuilt in chapter 3 by various laborers. We have studied the importance of God's people being unified with same purpose and passion....the building up of the Kingdom of God, the restoration of people.

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the BUILDING of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (complete,mature) man, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13

A Brief Overview of the rebuilt gates of Jerusalem:

(1) Sheep Gate -) The Sheep Gate in Jerusalem was near the temple; it was where the sacrificial animals were brought in to be offered on the altar. It is why the priest should be responsible for this gate.

Jesus is referred as the Lamb of God. It is at the cross where He died a sacrificial death for us.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." John 1:29

"I am the Good Shepherd: the good shepherd give his life for the sheep." John 10:11

"I am the Door of the Sheep.....by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:7-9

Salvation from Sin and Death begins and ends with Faith and Repentance in Jesus Christ.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we MUST be saved." Acts 4:12

The Sheep Gate speaks of our salvation experience. Have we all entered the Kingdom of God through this gate? Do you remember when you were Born-Again? The joy....the excitement about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? The peace of having our sins forgiven and being right with God. The assurance of Salvation and security of His unfailing love for us?

Next Gate..... The Fish Gate (3)

Remember the Fish Gate was near the fish market. This is where the fish were brought and sold. It was an active gate.

Jesus spoke to His Disciples as being Fishers of Men. Peter and Andrew, James and John were Galilean fisherman but Jesus said to them:

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew

God is interested in catching people like a fisherman enjoys catching fish.

The Fish Gate speaks to us of Evangelism. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

It is critical for the church or for us individually to be involved in the Fish Business. This is a natural byproduct of being one of His Sheep. Do you remember leading someone to Jesus? Have you experienced the joy of God using you as a fishing lure in someone else's life? In order for a church to survive and thrive.....the Fish Gate must be an active place for restoration! In what condition is your fish gate? Our fish gate as a church?

The next gate is The Old Gate. (6)

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the paths, where is the good way, and walk in it, and he shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah

We live in a culture saturated with things that are constantly changing with technology. Almost everything is "new and improved".....more convenient and user friendly! I'm not against high tech stuff but when it comes to spiritual truths.....the simple way of trusting and obeying Gods Word is applicable for every generation.

I see the importance of the Old Gate....the same for discipleship among Gods people. Those that are more mature in their walk with the Lord are key builders in the lives of new believers. Every church should have a good mix of people. Older, more mature Christians connected with new ones. The older investing in the younger, men,women, big sisters and big brothers in the Lord.

Jesus said " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you:" Matthew 28:19-20

Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy:

"But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra"

"But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation." 2 Timothy 3:11

(13) the Valley Gate

The Valley Gate led out of the city of Jerusalem and down into the valley. It is the gate of trials and brokenness for us. The Christian life is difficult and not for the faint hearted. In fact it is the most difficult life to live at times. But there is a greater purpose in those Valley Seasons of our lives. It teaches us humility and dependency on Jesus Christ. Our faith grows in the valley not on the mountaintop.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing." James 1:2-4

(14) the Refuse Gate

The Refuse Gate (Dung) is the place where the rubbish and waste of the city was eliminated. They would take the refuse and dump it the valley of Gehenna, often used as an illustration of hell. This gate was important to the health of the city.

"Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

2 Corinthians 7:1

(15) Fountain Gate

The fountain gate is located near the pool of Siloam and was often used by the people for cleaning before preceding on to the temple. Through Hezekiah's tunnel, fresh water was brought into the city. Remember Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man there.

"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said out of his inner being shall flow rivers of living water." John

This gate speaks to us of The Holy Spirit in the church and our lives.

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians

Acts

(26) Watergate Gate -) led down to the Gihon Spring which was located adjacent to the Kidron Valley.

This gate speaks to us of God Word in our lives and church.

Psalm 119:9

Ephesians

(13) The Valley Gate -

(14) The Refuse Gate - Malchijah -

(15) The Fountain Gate - where the pool of Shelah was located, where the water began to flow. The freshly clean water came from Hezekiah's tunnel.